

Lawrason, Thomas House
(Lafayette-Lawrason-Cazenove House)
301 S. St. Asaph Street
Alexandria, Virginia

HABS No. VA-467

HABS
VA
7-ALEX
83-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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301 S. St. Asaph Street
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Present Owner: Mr. & Mrs. E. Charles Woods

Present Occupant and Use: Residence

Description

Brick, Flemish Bond and Aquia Stone trim, Federal style.

Number of stories: 3½ with ell

Historical Data

Year of erection: About 1819

Built for (first owner): Thomas Lawrason

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Thomas Lawrason

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Thomas Lawrason

Notable events and occupants

The Lafayette House is a top rank Federal mansion with outstanding elegance and detail. Its doorway with elliptical fanlight, and side-lights on each side of the double doors, is particularly fine. (doorway is composed of elaborately worked wood and stone; hardware is silver plated). The roof is gabled with parapets and originally had balustrades front and back. There may once have been a "Captain's Walk".

There is a cellar under the entire structure and an examination reveals the house and ell were constructed at contemporaneously. The rooms are commodious, well proportioned, and contain extraordinarily delicate woodwork, composition ornament, and plaster cornices. A curving or "Geometrical" stair winds from the first floor to the third.

Mrs. Lawrason, then a widow, put her home at the disposal of General Lafayette and his suite while he was official guest of the city of Alexandria in 1824. In appreciation, the city council presented her with a silver cup in recognition of her hospitable act.

The Lafayette-Lawrason association rightfully includes the name of Antoine Charles Cazenove, a French nobleman who settled in Alexandria about 1794, and established the banking house of Cazenove and Company. That young man served as the General's host during his stay in town, and with his fluent French assumed a prominent role in all festivities.

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References: Gay Montague Moore, Seaport in Virginia..., Richmond, 1949, Chap. 25., HABI forms, prepared by T. Russell Jones and Worth Bailey, HABS, National Park Service.

Approved Diep Suthm Date Feb. 16, 191-9
Chief Architect